

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number**

0605-0052

**Case Title:**

Southwest Rice Mill

**Reporting Office:**

Baton Rouge, LA, Resident Office

**Subject of Report:**

Interview of [REDACTED] District Fire Chief

**Activity Date:**

July 28, 2011

**Reporting Official and Date:**

[REDACTED] SA

02-SEP-2011, Signed by: [REDACTED] SA

**Approving Official and Date:**

[REDACTED] SAC

06-SEP-2011, Approved by: [REDACTED], SAC

**SYNOPSIS**

The Baton Rouge Resident Office is conducting an investigation into suspected violations of the Clean Water Act resulting from the discharge of oil into Bayou Blanc, a water of the United States.

On Thursday, July 28th, 2011, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Environmental Protection Agency- Criminal Investigation Division, interviewed Crowley Fire Department District Chief [REDACTED]

**DETAILS**

On Thursday, July 28th, 2011, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Environmental Protection Agency- Criminal Investigation Division, interviewed Crowley Fire Department District Chief [REDACTED]. The interview took place at the City of Crowley, Louisiana Fire Department, specifically 104 West Hutchinson Avenue in Crowley, Louisiana. The agents identified themselves and displayed their credentials for the review of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has served with the Fire Department for twenty-six years, the past six of which was in the capacity of District Chief. On Saturday, May 28th, 2011, [REDACTED] received a call regarding an oil spill in Bayou Blanc, a local waterway. [REDACTED] responded to the call and followed the oil in Bayou Blanc and traced the source back to a large unnamed ditch that led to a metal tank. The tank was situated adjacent to railroad tracks leading to the Southwest Rice Mill (SRM).

[REDACTED] observed that a large body of water had gathered around the railroad tracks adjacent to the tank. A trench had recently been dug from the rails to a nearby ditch, which [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] believed to be intended for draining the water from the rail area. Immediately next to the tank existed another trench that had been recently dug, which ran from the large ditch and led in the direction of the SRM. [REDACTED] observed that this trench was filled with oil due to its proximity to the leaking tank. [REDACTED] followed the trench in the direction of the SRM and observed that it had been terminated by a pile of dirt placed in the trench. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] believed this was to prevent the oil from flowing back to the SRM.

[REDACTED] began to contact local facilities to determine the responsible party for the spill. At 4:52 on the same day [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] the owner of the SRM. [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] knew about the incident with the tank and that [REDACTED] knew about the spill. [REDACTED] reported to the area of the tank and spoke with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] arrival to meet with [REDACTED] was the first time that [REDACTED] had actually observed the spill and said that [REDACTED] employees had told [REDACTED] that it wasn't that bad.

